

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-07 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 OC-06 CCO-00

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P 261512Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2951

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA GREECE PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW UTILITY AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

REF: STATE 211348

1. PROPOSALS CONTAINED REFTEL APPEAR BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDING KAGNEW STATION AND PROVISION OF UTILITIES SERVICES BY NAVCOMMUNIT.

2. AT PRESENT, NAVCOMMUNIT, KAGENW STATION, PROVIDING WATER AND POWER ONLY TO CONGEN COMPOUND AND TRACT A. LATTER TURNED OVER TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT LAST MAY AND OCCUPIED BY ETHIOPIAN NAVY. UTILITIES BILLING TO CONGEN FROM CISCO TOTALED U.S.\$462.59 FOR JULY, AND U.S.\$338.88 FOR AUGUST. BILLS HAVE BEEN VOUCHERED AND PAYMENT BEING MADE BY REGIONAL FINANCE CENTER, AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARIS THROUGH CONGEN TO CISCO. BILLING TO ETHIOPIAN NAVY FOR UTILITY COSTS TO TRACT A TOTALED U.S.\$2,179.85 FOR JULY AND U.S.\$3,831.63 FOR AUGUST. BILLS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FOR PAYMENT UNDER COVER OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES

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FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY, ADDIS ABABA.

3. AS TRACT E (LESS PORTION RETAINED FOR USE NAVCOMMUNIT AND CONTRACTORS), WHICH CONSTITUTES BULK OF KAGNEW, NOT YET TURNED OVER TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, NO COSTS YET INCURRED BY NAVCOMMUNIT FOR UTILITIES TO TRACT E AND NONE PROVIDED WITH EXCEPTION MINIMUM SECURITY LIGHTS AND POWER TO SEWAGE PUMPS, WHICH ALSO SERVE NAVCOMMUNIT, TRACT A, AND CONGEN. NO COSTS WILL BE INCURRED UNTIL TRACT E IS TURNED OVER AND OCCUPIED. EVEN THEN COSTS WILL NOT APPROACH FIGURE CITED REFTEL UNTIL FULL UTILIZATION ALL FACILITIES (MESSHALL, LAUNDRY, THEATER, SWIMMING POOL, ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS, HOUSING, ETC.) WHICH WILL NOT OCCUR FOR SOME TIME.

4. AS ALL KAGNEW FACILITIES TO BE, OR ALREADY TURNED OVER TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT (AS WELL AS CONGEN COMPOUND) REQUIRE 60 CYCLE 115 V. CURRENT, LOCAL ETHIOPIAN PWOER SOURCE, WHICH PROVIDES 50 CYCLE 120 V. CURRENT, CANNOT BE UTILIZED UNLESS ENTIRE INSTALLATION CONVERTED AND ALL EQUIPMENT REPLACED AT PROHIBITIVE COST. UTILITIZATION LOCALLY PROVIDED 50 CYCLE, 220 V. WOULD ALSO REQUIRE CONVERSION. COST OF LOCAL POWER ALSO APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES THAT PROVIDED BY KAGNEW. IN ADDITION, WATER FROM KAGNEW IS MUCH MORE POTABLE THAN LOCAL WATER. FOR THESE REASONS, ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES HERE AND IN ADDIS ABABA HAVE ASSURED CONGEN AND EMBASSY OF AGREEMENT, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, ON NECESSITY OF ENTERING INTO CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF POWER AND WATER BY KAGNEW. AS SOON AS TRANSFER ACCOMPLISHED, ETHIOPIANS APPEAR PREPARED ENTER INTO CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL AND SECURITY CAONDITIONS PERMITTING.

5. AS NO, RPT NO, SIZEABLE ETHIOPIAN ARREARAGE MOUNTING, AND WILL NOT UNITL TRACT E TRANSFERRED AND OCCUPIED, PROPOSED TERMINATION BY OCTOBER 15 OF PRESENTLY PROVIDED UTILITY SERVICES APPEARS WHOLLY UNNECESSARY, AS ARRANGEMENT FOR PAYMENT ALREADY MADE, AS INDICATED ABOVE. DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS DECIDED THAT PROVISION OF UTILITIES NOW, AND AFTER TURNOVER OF TRACT E, IS IN INTEREST OF U.S. GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND OF OBVIOUS FACT THAT UNCEREMONIOUS TERMINATION OF UTILITIES SERVICES WOULD PROVOKE UNDUE STRAIN ON U.S.- ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AT CRITICAL MOMENT IN ETHIOPIAN HISTORY, CONGEN RECOMMENDES IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT NAVCOMMUNIT BE INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UTILITIES

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TO TRACT A (AND CONGEN) ON PRESENT BASIS, AND TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES AS SOON AS REQUIRED AT TRACT 3, PENDING NEGOTIATION OF NECESSARY CONTRACT. CONGEN BELIEVES NEGOTIATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ADDIS ABABA WITH SINGLE DESIGNATED ETHIOPIAN ENTITY, UTILIZING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL MANPOWER REQUIRED, INCLUDING U.S. NAVY CONTRACT SPECIALIST AS PROPOSED REFTEL.

6. IT SHOULD ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT CONGEN AT PRESENT TOTALLY

DEPENDENT ON KAGNEW POWER AND WATER TRANSMITTED VIA TRACT A,
ALTHOUGH WE RUSHING TO COMPLETION INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY
GENERATORS AND WATER CONNECTIONS. IF POWER AND WATER CUT, WE
COULD, WITH SOME INGENUITY, SURVIVE, EVEN NOW, UTILIZING
INCOMPLETE INSTALLATION. WE EXPECT TO COMPLETE INSTALLATIONS AND
TESTING WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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